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GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

There are so many people in the society that require our assistance and it is our duty to offer it any way we can. I was excited when I learnt we would be going to offer our services at the Vigil Primary School in Kawangware as part of the Young Enterprise Education in Schools (YEES) program. The program mainly deals with children from the ages of 6-15 years from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program empowers them by delivering entrepreneurial skills as they are the leaders of tomorrow.

Five of us AKAD mentees were able to make it and our trip was definitely worth it. I was reminded how lucky I am to have been brought up without much of a struggle with great opportunities and a conducive learning environment. Since we were only five we were divided, each with their own classroom. I got to spend time with the class four pupils who were very receptive. At first I was not quite sure what to start talking to the



Pupils entering class.

about considering they are still so young so topics were limited but as time passed by and we got to know each other better, topics just flowed on smoothly. I was later on joined by Mike who arrived late.

We basically started with introductions followed by general topics like what they would like to do when they become older. Majority said doctors, pilots, some engineers and the most of the boys wanted to be professional sportsmen. This was not as different as when I was in class four myself. We also dwelt on the same careers and I wanted to be a doctor but a lot has changed since then. We encouraged them to go for what they want.

We also advised them to open their minds to what is going on around them in the society especially the things they would love to change. At first they were silent but I could not blame them. In class four many do not bother themselves with issues like this it is all fun and games but we gave them some ideas like taking care of the environment by picking litter in the compound and caring for others. They were actually attentive which was encouraging. They asked a few questions about ourselves and past primary school experiences. This kept the session interactive and lively. The first session was up and it was break time at around 10 a.m. where we got to socialize with the children outside of class.

One thing that impressed me was the fact that a couple of the class four pupils came to me with ideas of how they can make the society a better place. They actually took time to think about it. They gave me answers like caring for the sick, obeying and respecting teachers and parents which brings about good relations, helping one's neighbours in school and at home



Vigil school pupils having a break.

and planting trees. Not bad for children their age. It was a good start. Break was over and it was time to go back to class. Some of the mentees went to another primary school but I am one of those who stayed behind for the liveliest part of my stay.

The kids were more open now and I could see they were more jumpy than they had led on previously. We then majored on interests to keep the cheerful mood up. They said they liked singing, storytelling, acting and went on ahead to state their favourite subjects and majority loved Mathematics and Science. None of them like Kiswahili, they actually despise it which is common nowadays but very wrong. I tried to give them a positive attitude about it because I also was in the same situation up to high school and it did not work out very well for me so I know the consequences.

I also taught them for some time like a teacher giving them random questions on Math and Christian Religious Education (C.R.E.) and they were excited and eager. C.R.E was the most enjoyable as they liked teaching each other using stories and songs. This is where I learnt that that class is made up of very talented and creative individuals. Some of them even acted out a bible story. I also got entertained and learnt from their inspirational stories. Before I knew it was lunch time and time to leave.

We were offered lunch before leaving. The experience was fun leaving one wanting to come back. I had never actually taught young pupils like them before and it was a learning point for me too. I also liked the way I put a smile on their faces from time to time, it made me feel happy and I was a bit sad to leave but look forward to seeing them soon.

Not everybody is as lucky to have a comfortable life with almost everything granted to them and that is why we who are more fortunate need to assist because we would also like to be assisted if in the same situation, I personally would. It not only makes them happy and grateful but also a feeling of satisfaction comes over those willing to improve the lives of others.

